<u>**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**</u>

1. - 26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) ~~In a server connected to a plurality of participant's client computers via communication network, the server including:~~

~~an auction database recording item information to be auctioned and auction information with respect to an item which indicates whether the auction is opened or closed;~~

~~a history database recording a change of a present price of the item with respect to the auction;~~

~~a reading fee provider database recording an amount of money of a provider who pays a reading fee which is paid to read the present price of the item, and~~

~~an item database recording a quantity of the item, a~~ A method for on-line auction <u>in a server</u> comprising the steps of:

(a) ~~an auction open step wherein the server determines~~<u>determining by the server</u> whether there is an auction opened for the item by making reference to the auction information in ~~the auction~~ <u>an auction</u> database and ~~whether~~ <u>determining if</u> there is any remaining quantity for the item by making reference to ~~the item~~ <u>an item</u> database if the server receives item information from a participant's client computer, ~~opens~~ <u>opening</u> a new auction for the item if there is no auction opened for the item and there is any remaining quantity for the item, and ~~records~~ <u>recording</u> the opening of the new auction on the auction database;

(b) ~~a present price reading step wherein, if the server receives~~ <u>receiving</u> a request for reading the present price of the item from the participant's client computer, ~~the server reduces~~ <u>reducing</u> the present price of the item by an amount of the reading fee, ~~records~~ <u>recording</u> the change of the present price of the item in ~~the history~~ <u>a history</u> database, ~~displays~~ <u>displaying</u> the change of the present price on the participant's client computer who requested the reading of the present price, ~~withdraws~~ <u>withdrawing</u> the reading fee from the money of ~~the reading~~ <u>a reading</u> fee provider database and ~~records~~ <u>recording</u> the remaining amount of the money of the reading fee provider database after the withdrawal on the reading fee provider database; whereby the present price of the item is continuously reduced as participants request the reading of the present price;

(c) ~~a first bidding judgment step wherein the server determines~~ determining whether a bid request from the participant's client computer is the first by making reference to the auction information in the auction database;

(d) ~~an auction close step wherein, if the bid request is the first, the server determines~~ determining the bid requester as a winner and other participants as losers, closes the auction and changes the record of the auction information in the auction database to indicate that the auction is closed; and

(e) ~~an auction repetition step wherein the server repeats~~ repeating the above steps so that the auction for the item is continuously repeated while the quantity of the item is greater than zero.

28. (Currently Amended) The method for on-line auction as recited in claim 27, further comprising the steps of:

(a) ~~sponsor-existence judgment step wherein the server determines~~ determining whether there is a sponsor for the reading fee for the item being auctioned;

(b) ~~decision of the present price reading fee provider by sponsor step wherein the server determines~~ determining that the sponsor is the reading fee provider if there is the sponsor and the amount of the money of the sponsor recorded in the reading fee provider database is greater than the reading fee; and

(c) ~~decision of the present price reading fee provider by participant wherein the server determines~~ determining that the participant who requested for reading the present price is the reading fee provider if there is no sponsor or the amount of the money of the sponsor recorded in the reading fee provider database is smaller than the reading fee.

29. (Currently Amended) The method for on-line auction as recited in claim 27, further comprising the steps of:

(a) ~~price discount check step wherein the server determines~~ determining whether there is a price discounted according to the remaining quantity of the item;

(b) ~~discount calculation step wherein the server calculates~~ calculating the discount price if the discount is possible; and

(c) ~~setting of the initial price with discount price step wherein the server sets~~ setting the initial price with a discount price for the newly opened auction.

30. (Currently Amended) The method for on-line auction as recited in claim 27, further comprising the steps of:

(a) ~~reservation recording step wherein the server records~~ recording a reserved price and a reservation condition that the participant enters;

(b) ~~reservation implementing step wherein the server determines~~ determining whether the auction which is progressing satisfies the reservation condition, ~~compares~~ comparing the reserved price with the present price if the auction which is progressing satisfies the reservation condition, ~~determines~~ determining the participant who made a reservation as a winner if the reserved price is higher than the present price and closes the corresponding auction.

31. (Currently Amended) The method for on-line auction as recited in claim 27, wherein the step (e) includes ~~the step wherein the server enters~~ entering the losers of the prior auction in a newly-opened following auction.

32. (Currently Amended) ~~In a server connected to a plurality of participant's client computers via communication network, the server including an auction database recording item information to be auctioned and auction information with respect to the item which indicates whether the auction is opened or closed, a history database recording a change of a present price of the item with respect to the auction, a reading fee provider database recording an amount of money of a provider who pays a reading fee which should be paid to read the present price of the item, and an item database recording quantity of the item, a~~ A method for on-line auction in a server comprising the steps of:

(a) ~~an auction open step wherein the server determines~~ determining by the server whether there is an auction opened for the item by making reference to the auction information in ~~the auction~~ an auction database and whether there is any remaining quantity for the item by making reference to ~~the item~~ an item database if the server receives item information from the participant's client computer, ~~opens~~ opening a new auction for the item if there is no auction

opened for the item and there is any remaining quantity for the item, and ~~records~~ recording the open of the new auction on the auction database;

(b) ~~a present price reading step wherein, if the server receives~~ receiving a request for reading the present price of the item from the participant's client computer, ~~the server falls~~ falling down the present price of the item by an amount of the reading fee, ~~records~~ recording the change of the present price of the item in ~~the history~~ a history database, ~~displays~~ displaying the change of the present price on the participant's client computer who requested the reading of the present price, ~~withdraws~~ withdrawing the reading fee from the money of the reading fee provider and ~~records~~ recording the remaining amount of the money of the reading fee provider after the withdrawal on ~~the reading~~ a reading fee provider database; whereby the present price of the item is continuously fallen down as the participants request the reading of the present price;

(c) ~~an auction close step wherein the server determines whether~~ determining if the present price is below zero, ~~determines~~ determining the bidder who requests the present price inspection to make the present price below 0 as the winner and other participants as losers, ~~displays~~ displaying the winning on the winner's computer, ~~change~~ changing the record of the auction information in the auction database to indicate that the auction is closed; and

(e) ~~an auction repetition step wherein the server repeats~~ repeating the above steps so that the auction for the item is continuously repeated.